

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 22

Introduced by Senator Florez

February 10, 2010

Senate Joint Resolution No. 22—Relative to horses.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 22, as amended, Florez. Horses.

This measure would memorialize the Congress to support federal legislation to protect American horses from slaughter for human consumption.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, California voters enacted a ban on the slaughter
2 of horses for human consumption and the sale of horsemeat for
3 human consumption in 1998; and
4 WHEREAS, California horses continue to be transported and
5 sold out of state, making protection of our horses difficult and
6 dependent on the passage of a federal ban on the movement of
7 horses for purposes of slaughter for human consumption; and
8 WHEREAS, The slaughter of American horses has continued
9 unabated despite the closing in 2007 of the three slaughter houses
10 then still operating within the United States; and
11 WHEREAS, Federal legislation has been introduced, the
12 Conyers-Burton Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2009, that
13 would prohibit the possession, shipping, transporting, purchasing,
14 selling, delivering, or receiving of horses and other equines in
15 interstate or foreign commerce for slaughter for human
16 consumption; and

1 WHEREAS, Horse slaughter is not humane euthanasia and-is
2 ~~in fact animal torture and cruelty; and methods used to kill American~~
3 ~~horses in Canada and Mexico are cruel and crude, causing~~
4 ~~suffering to these animals; and~~

5 WHEREAS, Horse slaughter has been detrimental to the
6 communities where slaughtering facilities have been located, with
7 significant negative impacts to these communities ranging from
8 nuisance odors to chronic sewer and environmental violations; and

9 ~~WHEREAS, Horse slaughter has been found to increase and~~
10 ~~abet horse theft; and provides a quick and likely untraceable avenue~~
11 ~~for disposal of stolen horses; and~~

12 WHEREAS, Horse slaughter is not a means of controlling
13 numbers of unwanted, abandoned, or neglected horses, but, rather,
14 is a for-profit operation driven by a demand for horsemeat in some
15 foreign countries; and

16 WHEREAS, American horses are not raised, fed, or medicated
17 within the FDA guidelines established for food animals, making
18 them potentially unfit and unsafe for human consumption; and

19 WHEREAS, In America, horses are an icon of our history,
20 traditions, and culture, revered for their contributions to the
21 building of this country, their companionship, and their special
22 bond with people; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
24 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature hereby urges Congress to
25 support federal legislation to protect American horses from
26 slaughter for human consumption; and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate is hereby authorized
28 and directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the President
29 and Vice President of the United States, the Majority Leader of
30 the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to
31 each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress
32 of the United States.

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